

# Comparisons of Job Characteristics

Focus Occupation: **Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022)**

Associated Occupation: **Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)**

[Compare Knowledge](#)

[Compare Skills](#)

[Compare Abilities](#)

[Compare Detailed Work Activities](#)

[Compare Tools and Technologies](#)

<<	Focus occupation element is much lower
<	Focus occupation element is lower
0	Focus occupation element is at a similar level
>	Focus occupation element is at a higher level
>>	Focus occupation element is at a much higher level

## Knowledge

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 89

Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022)

Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)

Associated Occupation's Key Knowledge Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Customer and Personal Service	11.3	18.4	17.1	0	Current knowledge level may be sufficient
Therapy and Counseling	3.8	15.0	8.7	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Education and Training	9.2	14.7	7.5	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Psychology	6.4	14.6	9.1	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Medicine and Dentistry	3.7	12.5	8.1	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required
Biology	3.7	8.5	3.4	<<	Extensive education and/or training may be required

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Skills

Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 89

Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022)

Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)

Associated Occupation's Key Skills Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating		Evaluation of Focus Occupation
Social Perceptiveness	9.1	11.8	10.8	0	Current skill level may be sufficient
Service Orientation	7.9	10.8	9.3	<	A higher skill level may be required
Coordination	9.1	10.2	9.3	0	Current skill level may be sufficient

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Abilities		Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 93			
Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022) Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)					
Associated Occupation's Key Abilities Elements	Average Rating, All Occupations	Associated Occupation's Rating	Focus Occupation's Rating	Evaluation of Focus Occupation	
Speech Recognition	9.9	11.8	9.8	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Static Strength	5.0	8.6	8.8	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Extent Flexibility	4.8	8.5	7.3	<	Some improvement in abilities may be required
Trunk Strength	5.7	8.3	7.9	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Gross Body Coordination	3.9	6.6	6.1	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Stamina	4.0	6.6	6.6	0	Current ability level may be sufficient
Speed of Limb Movement	3.2	5.5	5.5	0	Current ability level may be sufficient

The maximum possible rating is 25.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

Activities that Both Occupations Have in Common		Similarity of Focus Occupation to Associated Occupation: 100
Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022) Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)		
Work Activities	Exclusivity of Activity	
Administer medications or treatments	46	
Apply traction	85	
Assist patient in performing breathing exercises	89	
Assist patient with dressing, undressing, grooming, or bathing	77	
Confer with physical therapy staff to discuss treatment	99	
Construct medical supportive devices	87	
Evaluate patient response to therapy	78	
Fit medical supportive devices	85	
Fit patients for prosthetic device, using static or dynamic alignment	92	
Instruct patient in use of supportive device	87	
Instruct patients in methods to improve functional activities	87	
Inventory medical supplies or instruments	67	
Lift or transport ill or injured patients	69	
Maintain dental or medical records	64	
Monitor medical oxygen equipment	89	
Motivate patients to practice exercises	89	

Observe patient condition	48
Order or purchase supplies, materials, or equipment	35
Position patient for therapy	70
Prepare patient reports	66
Prepare patients for tests, therapy, or treatments	70
Retrieve files or charts	92
Schedule meetings or appointments	68
Set up patient care equipment	75
Take messages	68
Use massage therapy procedures	81
Use medical equipment in direct patient care	75
Weigh patients	75
Work with persons with mental disabilities or illnesses	62

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily perform all of the listed activities. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the activity is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations engage in that activity.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.

## Tools and Technologies that Both Occupations Have in Common

Similarity of Focus  
Occupation to Associated  
Occupation: 93

**Focus Occupation: Physical Therapist Aides (31-2022)**  
**Associated Occupation: Physical Therapist Assistants (31-2021)**

Tools and Technologies	Exclusivity
Ambulation and transfer and positioning aids for the physically challenged	27
Blood pressure units and related products	11
Computers	1
Content authoring and editing software	1
Gait training products	43
Heat and cold therapy products	29
Industry specific software	1
Orthopedic softgoods for lower extremity	33
Patient lifts	35
Patient transport products	18
Prosthetic devices or accessories and supplies	56
Vascular and compression therapy equipment and supplies	33

Not all positions in these occupations will necessarily use all of the listed tools and technologies. The exclusivity rating is an indication of how unique the tool or technology is amongst all occupations. The maximum rating is 100. High scores indicate that only a small number of occupations use that tool or technology.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor and Workforce Development, Research and Analysis Section analysis of O\*NET (Occupation Information Network) data.